

CLAIM AMENDMENTS**Claim 1 (previously amended):**

A woodworking machine comprising:

- a cutting tool for cutting workpieces;
- at least one motor configured to drive the cutting tool;
- a detection system configured to detect contact between a person and the cutting tool;
- a brake mechanism controllable to stop the cutting tool if the contact is detected; and
- a control system configured to determine the operability of the brake mechanism and to disable the at least one motor if the brake mechanism is inoperable.

Claim 2 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the brake mechanism includes a capacitor, and where the control system is configured to determine the capacitance of the capacitor.

Claim 3 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the brake mechanism includes a capacitor adapted to store electrical charge, and where the control system is configured to determine the electrical charge stored on the capacitor.

Claim 4 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 1, further comprising a spacing detection system associated with the brake mechanism and adapted to detect whether the spacing between the cutting tool and a selected portion of the brake mechanism is within a predetermined range, and where the control system is configured to disable the at least one motor if the spacing detected by the spacing detection system is out of the predetermined range.

Claim 5 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 1, where the brake mechanism includes at least one replaceable single-use component, and where the control system is configured to detect whether the single-use component has been used, and to disable the at least one motor until the single-use component has been replaced.

Claim 6 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 5, where the brake mechanism includes a fusible member.

Claim 7 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 1, further comprising a user interface controllable by the control system to indicate whether the brake mechanism is operable.

Claim 8 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 1, further comprising a user-actuatable override switch coupled to the control system, and where the control system is configured not to disable the at least one motor if the override switch is actuated.

Claim 9 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 8, where the control system is configured to at least temporarily disable the brake mechanism if the override switch is actuated.

Claim 10 (canceled without prejudice).**Claim 11 (original):**

The machine of claim 1, where the brake mechanism is adapted to be electrically coupled to the control system, and where the control system is configured to disable the at least one motor if the brake mechanism is not coupled to the control system.

Claims 12-19 (previously cancelled).

Claim 20 (original):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a cutting tool for cutting workpieces;

a detection system adapted to detect contact between a user and the cutting tool;

a brake system adapted to engage and stop the cutting tool when the detection system detects contact between the user and the cutting tool; and

a control system adapted to monitor the detection system and control actuation of the brake system;

where the control system is adapted to test at least a portion of the brake system to verify that the portion of the brake system is operational.

Claim 21 (original):

The machine of claim 20, further including a motor controllable by the control system to drive the cutting tool, and where the control system is adapted to test the portion of the brake system prior to actuation of the motor, and where the control system is adapted not to actuate the motor unless the portion of the brake system is operational.

Claim 22 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 21, where the control system is adapted to test the portion of the brake system while the motor is running, and to shut off the motor if the control system determines the portion of the brake system is not operational while the motor is running.

Claim 23 (original):

The machine of claim 21, where the control system is adapted to test at least a portion of the detection system prior to actuation of the motor to verify that the portion of the detection system is operational, and where the control system is adapted not to actuate the motor unless the portion of the detection system is operational

Claim 24 (canceled without prejudice).

Claims 25-27 (previously cancelled).

Claim 28 (previously amended):

A woodworking machine comprising:

- a support structure;
- a cutting tool adapted to move to cut a workpiece, where the cutting tool is supported by the support structure;
- at least one motor adapted to drive the cutting tool;
- a detection system adapted to detect contact between the cutting tool and a person;
- a reaction system adapted to perform a specified action upon detection of the contact; and
- a self-test system adapted to test the operability of at least a portion of the reaction system and to disable the at least one motor if the tested portion of the reaction system is inoperable.

Claim 29 (withdrawn):

The woodworking machine of claim 28, where the self-test system tests the operability of the reaction system while the cutting tool is moving.

Claim 30 (previously new):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a cutting tool for cutting workpieces;

at least one motor configured to drive the cutting tool;


detection means for detecting contact between a person and the cutting tool;

brake means controllable for stopping the cutting tool if the contact is detected; and

control means for determining the operability of the brake means and for disabling the at least one motor if the brake means is inoperable.

Respectfully submitted,


SD3, LLC



David A. Fanning, Esq.
Registration No. 33,233
Customer No. 27630
22409 S.W. Newland Road
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070
Telephone: (503) 638-6201
Facsimile: (503) 638-8601

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David A. Fanning